



Animal shelter plea yields results

Harbor Humane sees more than 70 adoptions in past week

Cassandra Lybrink
Holland Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

OTTAWA COUNTY — When a local West Michigan shelter asked for help in a challenging season, community members stepped up.

Harbor Humane saw 73 adoptions

last week, including 44 cats, 25 dogs, two guinea pigs and two rabbits.

"We are so thrilled to see so many happy faces," the nonprofit wrote on social media Monday, Nov. 7. "We are so thankful to our community for adopting and giving loving homes to these amazing animals."

The shelter posted a plea for help

Wednesday, Nov. 2, calling 2022 "relentless."

"We've been at this for years," Harbor wrote. "And all we feel lately is more animals sitting, less animals getting adopted, more animals coming to our shelter."

When animal shelters were faced with sky-high application rates at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, hardly

anyone knew how long the pandemic would last, or what would happen to newly adopted pets when life went "back to normal." Over the past six months, they've found out.

"This year, there just appears to be no end in sight," the organization wrote. "We just can't keep up. We are facing the consequences of COVID, of surgery being halted early in the pandemic and of

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THE BBQ TASTE TEST



Brisket, corn, beans and cornbread from Holy Smokers BBQ in Holland. PHOTOS BY CODY SCANLAN/HOLLAND SENTINEL

Here's what we thought of Holland's newest BBQ restaurants

Mitchell Boatman and Cody Scanlan
Holland Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

HOLLAND — No less than four new barbecue restaurants have opened in Holland and Holland Township in 2022.

We grabbed a handful of items from each of them — Bar-B-Que's, Holy Smokers BBQ, Dickey's Barbecue Pit and Boba Q — to sample for our latest Holland Sentinel Taste Test.

Unlike our previous battle between Popeye's and Chick-fil-A, we aren't pitting (pun intended) our BBQ establish-



Rib tips and greens from Bar-B-Que's

ments against each other — but we'll give you an honest review.

Will one restaurant smoke the others, or will everyone meet our expectations? These are the barbequestions we're here to answer. So, without further ado, here's what reporter Mitchell Boatman and photographer Cody Scan-

lan thought of the best assignment they've had in quite a while.

Bar-B-Que's

What we ordered: Rib tip dinner with greens and cornbread

What we paid: \$15.90 with tax

What we thought:

Mitchell: Pretty good rib tips with an interesting sauce. I didn't love it, but it wasn't bad. Good portion size, too. I enjoyed the greens and the cornbread is exactly what you'd expect it to be.

Cody: The strongest sauce, flavorful, among the items we tried — it was very savory. This was also the best portion size for main items.

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Suspect arraigned for shooting ex-wife, killing her son

Mitchell Boatman
Holland Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

LEE TWP. — An Allegan County man has been arraigned on several charges, including first degree murder, after a shooting in Lee Township on Friday, Nov. 4.

James Rawson Jr., 38, was arraigned Monday on charges of first degree murder, assault with intent to commit murder and two counts of felony firearm. He is suspected of shooting his ex-wife several times and shooting and killing a 21-year-old man, believed to be her son.

Court records identify the 21-year-old as Samuel Williams and the woman as Char Rawson. WZZM reports Williams was Char Rawson's older child.

Deputies from the Allegan County Sheriff's Office responded to the shooting around 4:30 p.m. Friday when Char Rawson called 911 to say she'd been shot in the head by her ex-husband. She was able to get away from the shooter in her vehicle before calling 911.

ACSO said the woman was alert when deputies arrived, but had been shot several times. Deputies went to the residence where the shooting occurred to find a 21-year-old man, Williams, dead from apparent gunshot wounds in the driveway.

Court documents state the weapon used in the shooting was an AK-47 rifle.

The suspect surrendered to law enforcement and was taken into custody.

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BBQ

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Dickey's Barbecue Pit

What we ordered: Polish kielbasa sausage, pork ribs, baked potato casserole, fried okra and a corn muffin

What we paid: \$19.35 with tax

What we thought:

Mitchell: My favorite thing here was actually the fried okra, but the kielbasa was very good. Dickey's cornbread was surprisingly sweet — almost like a corn cupcake — but I was into it. The ribs came off the bone easily and had a nice bark.

Cody: The kielbasa was by far the best item — great flavor and preparation. The rest were par for the course in terms of BBQ take-out — meaning it was good, but I wasn't overly delighted or enraged.

Holy Smokers BBQ

What we ordered: Sliced brisket platter with beans, campfire corn and cornbread

What we paid: \$17.80 with tax

What we thought:

Mitchell: I know we said it wasn't a competition, but the brisket here was the best thing we had during this taste test. It was tender, flavorful and downright tasty. The sides were solid, with the beans a little sweeter than I would have expected and a cakey cornbread — which isn't a bad thing.

Cody: The meat is the standout part of the meal, rightfully so, and the sides were well seasoned and prepared. Brisket pulled apart easily and had a nice smokey flavor.

Boba Q

What we ordered: Lao Chow — a platter with beef short ribs, pork spare ribs, rice and a salad — and a Lao Pop

What we paid: \$25

What we thought:

Cody: The most unique offering among the Holland-area BBQ joints. The Lao-inspired dishes offer a



The Lao Pop, a fried mozzarella stick, from BobaQ.

PHOTOS BY CODY SCANLAN/HOLLAND SENTINEL



Beef short ribs, pork spare ribs, rice and a salad from Boba.

fresh and unique spin on BBQ. Served with rice and salad, it definitely felt like the lightest and — dare I say — healthiest option.

Mitchell: This is, as expected, pretty different from the other offerings. I preferred the spare ribs to the short ribs. I would agree about the health aspect — had we not also ordered the Lao Pop, which is basically a giant mozzarella stick on a stick. It looked like a corn dog, and it was pretty good.

— Have an idea for our next taste test? Contact reporter Mitchell Boatman and photographer Cody Scanlan at newsroom@hollandsentinel.com.

Shooting

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James and Char Rawson were embroiled in a child custody battle. According to WZZM-13, Char Rawson was recently awarded full custody of their three chil-

dren after James Rawson failed to show up to court, and the shooting occurred when she arrived to pick up the kids from a bus stop near the suspect's home.

James Rawson is due back in court for a probable cause conference Thursday, Nov. 17. He also has a preliminary exam scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 23.

— Contact reporter Mitchell Boatman at mboatman@hollandsentinel.com.



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